(c) Number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31st March, 1999 and 31st March, 2002 was of the order of 4.0 crore and 4.2 crore respectively.

Re-Inventing EPF-lndia

286. SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recently launched a project called 'Re-inventing Employees Provident Fund-India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employees Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization through the project, 'Re-inventing EPF India' with the mission to re-invent the Organisation and reposition Employees' Provident Fund Organisation with the following goals:

(i) Allotment of permanent and unique number to Provident Fund members for identification. This will be known as National Social Security Number.

(ii) Networking of all Provident Fund offices to facilitate online settlement of claims within two to three days.

(iii) To provide anywhere, anytime facility to customers and to develop a mechanism for monitoring of compliance online and on monthly basis.

The process has already started. The time frame for it to become operational cannot be indicated at this stage.